



Office for Standards  
in Education

## Access and Achievement in Urban Schools: trends in attainment over time

This note looks at how pupil attainment in deprived urban schools, in terms of Key Stage 2 and GCSE results, has changed over time. It also compares our sample of urban deprived schools to the nationwide picture. Please note that trends in Key Stage 2 attainment are compared from 1996 to 2002, while GCSE trends are compared from 1993 to 2002.

Since 1996, the gap between the average points of the highest and lowest achieving **primary** schools overall has closed by around 1 point, from just over 7 points to just over 6 points. The gap between the average points scores of the best schools nationally and the deprived urban schools has also closed by about 1 point, though the gap itself was smaller to begin with and now stands at around 4.5 points. So deprived urban schools are closing the gap on the best schools at around the same rate as the lowest attaining schools are.

Since 1993, a typical deprived urban **secondary** school has improved its average points score by about 3 points less than the best schools nationally, with the gap between them now 30 average points. During this time, the gap between the highest and lowest attaining schools nationally grew by around 5 points. So while deprived urban schools are losing ground on the best schools more slowly than the lowest attaining schools are, the already large gap between them is still growing.



